

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIE-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 /050 W

-----058878 030926Z /23

O 030849Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5514

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 6510

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR KS US

SUBJ: LOS ANGELES TIMES ARTICLE BASED ON SECRET STATE DEPARTMENT
CABLE

SUMMARY: MOFA EXPRESSED CONCERN AT "BREACH OF DIPLOMATIC
COURTESY OR PRACTICE" IN REPORTED RELEASE OF SECRET STATE
DEPT TELEGRAM CONCERNING CONVERSATION WITH ROK FOREIGN
MINISTER. ROKG REQUESTS FULL EXPLANATION OF REASON FOR
US DECISION TO RELEASE MATERIAL. END SUMMARY.

1. MOFA AMERICAN AFFAIRS BUREAU DIRECTOR PAK SANG YONG
CALLED IN POLCOUNS AUGUST 3 TO EXPRESS CONCERN OVER "BREACH
OF DIPLOMATIC COURTESY AND PRACTICE" AND REPORTED RELEASE
OF SECRET STATE DEPT TELEGRAM TO LOS ANGELES TIMES. PAK
SAID TELEGRAM CONCERNED SENSITIVE SUBJECT AND ROKG REGRETTED
VERY MUCH THAT SUCH RELEASE WAS MADE, ESPECIALLY WITHOUT
ANY ADVANCE CONSULTATION WITH ROKG. NOTING THAT TELEGRAM
INVOLVED FOREIGN MINISTER'S REPUTATION AND WAY OF CONDUCTING
BUSINESS PAK ASKED FOR FULL EXPLANATION, PREFERABLY IN
WRITING, OF WHY USG DECIDED TO RELEASE MATERIAL. PAK
ADDED RESPONSE SHOULD ALSO INCLUDE SOME ASSURANCE
AGAINST SIMILAR OCCURRENCE IN THE FUTURE.

2. PAK MOFA RECEIVED TELEGRAM FROM ROK EMBASSY IN
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WASHINGTON WHICH SAID INTER ALIA TELEGRAM WAS RELEASED
TO LOS ANGELES TIMES WITH UNDERSTANDING IT WOULD
NOT BE PUBLISHED. PAK NOTED POSSIBILITY THAT QUESTION
CONCERNING THIS RELEASE MIGHT BE ASKED AT STATE DEPT
NOON PRESS BRIEFING AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT BRIEFING
MIGHT BE UTILIZED TO UNDERSCORE US RECOGNITION THAT
PUBLICATION OF THIS TELEGRAM BY LOS ANGELES TIMES WAS

BREACH OF DIPLOMATIC PRACTICE.

3. EMBASSY IS SERIOUSLY CONCERNED THAT THIS RELEASE, UNLESS STRONG RATIONALE IS PROVIDED, WILL HAVE VERY NEGATIVE IMPACT ON OUR ABILITY TO MAINTAIN CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIPS WITH ROKG. COMING AS IT DOES ON HEELS OF BLUE HOUSE BUGGING AND INTERCEPT CHARGES, KOREAN OFFICIALS CANNOT BUT BE CONCERNED OVER POSSIBILITY THAT VIEWS AIRED IN CONFIDENCE WILL RECEIVE WIDE PUBLICITY AT FUTURE DATES. THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE SINCE SOURCE WAS FONMIN.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: APPRECIATE RATIONALE FOR DEPARTMENT'S DECISION TO RELEASE THIS MATERIAL; (B) RATIONALE FOR PROVISION TO MOFA IF DIFFERENT FROM (A); AND (C) PRESS GUIDANCE FOR RESPONSE EXPECTED QUERIES HERE.

5. FOR EA/K: PLEASE ADVISE AMBASSADOR SNEIDER OF APPROACH IN SEOUL AND OF LOS ANGELES TIMES ARTICLE IF THIS HAS NOT ALREADY BEEN DONE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, DEPARTMENTAL TELEGRAMS, SECURITY CLASSIFICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 03-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SEOUL06510
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197708101/aaaadhsf.tel
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1402480
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"BREACH OF DIPL
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To: STATE
Type: TE
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Review Markings:
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